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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

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FL. 277

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

AUGUST, 1967

July Jobs Up by 3,000 for Record Total of 196,800

Another Record for Non-Farm Employment—Paced by continued job expansion in virtually every industry group, the number of wage earners on non-farm payrolls in Montana increased by 3,000 from the June figure to set a new record for the month of July. The 196,800 workers on industry payrolls this July exceeded last year's record for that month by 400 workers. The current strike in the copper mining industry does not cloud these totals since employment estimates are figured at mid-month. Metal mining and smelter payrolls were full at that time.

Seven Industry Groups Post Employment Gains—Over-the-month job gains—from June to July this year—were made in seven of the eight industry groups which comprise the basic Montana industrial economy. Contract construction led the hiring advances with an addition of 1,200 more workers. A heavy flow of tourist traffic coupled with good statewide consumer buying trends brought job increases of 900 in the service group and 800 more at trade firms. Employment in manufacturing was up 500, with a gain of 400 in the durable goods group and 100 in the non-durable segment. Mining payrolls advanced by 300 with all of the gain in metal mining operations. Other employment gains were recorded in transportation, communications and utilities, up 200; and in finance, insurance and

real estate firms, up 100. Government employment, estimated at 51,100 for July, was the only group to show a decline. A drop of 1,100 workers from state and local units of government overpowered a gain of 100 in federal payrolls to leave a net loss of 1,000 from the June total. Most of the deficit stems from the release of workers from educational institutions for the summer months.

10,600 Job Placements—The 23 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service placed 10,600 workers on jobs during July. Of this number 3,252 went to jobs in industry and commerce and 7,349 were absorbed in a variety of farm and ranch jobs. The state's industrial employers listed 3,717 job openings with local employment offices during the month.

Libby Dam Projects Attract Workers—Hundreds of workers from both within and out of the state have entered the Libby area this summer seeking employment. Most have been disappointed for surpluses of labor which have existed there since construction work started in earnest this season have not been completely absorbed. Workers are advised that should they arrive without a firm job commitment they may be disappointed for no shortages of workers have occurred in any classification. Rental housing is virtually impossible to find, but some trailer

spaces and facilities are available. The Dam work force at the end of July was at the 1,500 mark. Major work included the start of the Dam proper, a 7 mile railroad tunnel, a river bridge, schools, railroad relocation, forest development road relocation, a visitors' center, and staff office buildings. A major construction job in downtown Libby is a substantial shopping center.

Effects of Copper Strike on Economy Yet to Unfold—The first major copper strike since 1959-1960 hit the copper mining industry on July 15th. Negotiation efforts for settlement so far have been futile. If the current dispute approaches or exceeds the dimensions of the six month strike of 1959-60, the serious economic upset of lost wages and skilled workers will be hard to recover. The 1959-60 dispute cost an estimated \$24 million in lost wages in the copper industry alone. In addition, at that time more than 2,200 other workers who had no connection to the copper strike industry were separated from their jobs in trade, service, and other firms because of weakened economic conditions caused by the strike. Some layoffs have already been noted in other industries as a result of the current strike, and the number will grow as the strike period continues to lengthen. The more than 7,100 Montana copper production workers absent from their jobs is costing them lost wages of nearly \$5½ million per month.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	June 1967	May 1967	June 1966	June 1967	May 1967	June 1966	June 1967	May 1967	June 1966	June 1967	May 1967	June 1966	June 1967	May 1967	June 1966
All Manufacturing	8.2	7.0	8.6	7.4	5.8	7.3	5.3	5.6	5.2	3.3	3.8	3.2	1.0	.6	.8
Durable Goods	8.9	8.3	9.8	7.9	7.2	8.3	5.5	6.5	6.3	3.7	4.6	3.7	.6	.2	1.0
Primary Metal	12.3	5.5	9.5	9.6	5.1	5.9	4.4	7.1	4.5	3.2	4.4	1.7	.7	*	*
Nondurable Goods	6.7	4.3	5.9	6.3	3.0	5.2	4.8	3.6	3.0	2.5	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.4	.4
All Mining	8.6	4.8	10.2	4.1	2.3	5.7	5.4	9.2	6.9	3.9	3.4	3.7	.1	3.7	.7
Metal Mining	9.0	5.1	11.7	3.1	1.3	5.3	6.3	7.6	7.3	4.5	3.3	4.1	.1	1.9	*

*Less than .05

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for July

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—Economic health of community threatened by strike in copper industry. Although contract of smeltermen did not expire until August 1, they respected picket lines of other striking unions by not reporting for work after July 15. Many idled men sought employment in hay fields, lumbering, and construction for the duration.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—Labor market activity during July this year did not match the vigor of a year ago. Chiefly responsible was the slow pace of construction and a lower volume of new starts. A decline of job placement activity also noted in trade and service firms. Summer labor supply swelled by large surplus of high school and college students hoping for work. Farm labor demand was on par with last year with work in sugar beet and hay fields.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—All industry groups exhibited strong trends during July. Construction was at good pace with most local workers employed and no labor shortages expected. All lumber mills at peak production; continued shortage of timber fallers persists. Good tourist volume plus strong local buying power makes for healthy conditions on main street.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—At 12:01 a.m. on July 15, 1967 metal miners and all craft unions initiated a strike against the Anaconda Company, with more than 3,600 workers idled by this action. This was the first major strike since the 1959-60 walkout which lasted 6 months and cost an estimated \$24 million in lost wages. Employment levels in other Butte industries have remained fairly stable so far.

CUT BANK—Job placements in both farm and industry show losses from year ago. Lack of moisture and hot dry winds during growing season will adversely affect all farm crops with some already in critical condition. A Brown-ing lumber mill now in full operation.

DILLON—Reopening of tungsten mining operations one of the bright spots on the local scene. 100 men are expected to be employed when an ore processing plant is built near Dillon. 5½ miles of new interstate highway section near completion. Building construction at good volume as work continues on several new school buildings. Good activity on the farm front.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Op-

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	July 67	June 67	July 66	June 67 to July 67	July 66 to July 67
Civilian Work Force	295.6	284.1	293.8	11.5	1.8
Total Employment	282.6	269.0	282.6	13.6	0
Total Non-agricultural Employment	229.4	225.7	229.5	3.7	—1
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	196.8	193.8	196.4	3.0	.4
Total Agriculture Employment	53.2	43.3	53.1	9.9	.1
Labor Management Disputes	*	*	.1	—	—1
Total Unemployment	13.0	15.1	11.1	—2.1	1.9
Percent Unemployed	4.4	5.3	3.8	—	—
U.S. Unemployment Rate		4.6	3.9	—	—

*Less than 50

heim—Employment trends generally comparable to last year but some reduction in construction and farm hiring noted this July. Material shortages delayed work on the Fort Peck Housing Project. Hot, dry weather reduced hay and grain crop yields, lessening the demand for field hands.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—A large influx of workers from the Dakotas and Minnesota occurred during July. Flooding by the Yellowstone River slowed work on two bridges and an interstate highway section. Work started on new community hospital. Remodeling projects of main street firms among other building activity. Transient workers left area with completion of sugar beet field work.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Future economic trends bound to be influenced by copper industry strike which idled about 1,800 smelter workers here. Employment in other industry groups presently remain at good levels but little new hiring in evidence. Brisk labor demand noted with the start of the grain harvest; yield estimates run from 25 to 55 bushels per acre.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—Lack of new construction and a rather sluggish logging and lumber activities reduced the number of job opportunities during July. Fairly good seasonal trends maintained in other industry groups, including trade and service. Farm labor demand active with 151 workers placed in agriculture.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—Employment in area exceeds last year and favorable trends should continue until winter season starts. Building construction fairly active. Work on new interstate by-pass expected to start later this season. Good volume of tourist traffic keeps main street busy. Farm

labor demand for grain harvest will be reduced by poor crops this year.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—Neutral trends have characterized labor market activity in the Capital City for the past six months. A slow construction season is partly to blame. Some upswing was noted in July with start of work on a \$2½million interstate highway project, the only major work to open up this season. Mixed trends prevailed in trade with some merchants reporting normal volume and others complaining of declines. Farm labor demand active.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Whitefish—Construction set the hiring pace during July. Work quickened on the addition to the aluminum plant at Columbia Falls with a work force approaching 1,200. Other projects included a junior high school and 50 housing starts at Kalispell, classroom additions to schools at Big Fork, Columbia Falls, and Somers, a Columbia Falls power sub-station, and a highway bridge. The annual cherry harvest found 400 pickers in orchards, and 152 packing house workers as July ended.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Employment holding at good levels in most industry groups. Farm job placements show 8% increase from last year. Main street business gets added impetus from high tourist volume. Construction includes \$200,000 municipal swimming pool, \$600,000 in educational buildings, and a \$60,000 sawmill scheduled for operation during August.

LIBBY—Area jobseekers up 62% from last year as workers continue to arrive hoping for employment on Libby Dam and related projects. 259 workers added to Dam project payrolls during July for total of 1,513. Employment in

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	167.9	167.4	168.9	174.4	179.8	188.7	189.6	192.1	189.9	188.1	185.3	183.6	181.3
1966	173.9	172.6	174.2	179.3	184.2	194.0	196.4	196.2	191.9	189.8	185.5	185.9	185.4
1967	180.4	178.2	178.2	182.5	185.8	193.8	196.8*						

* Preliminary Estimate—

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for July

logging and mills at high levels but hiring reduced in these activities.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—The summer employment scene reflects good seasonal strength in all industry groups, including construction, trade, logging, and lumbering. Shortages of maids and fry cooks developed during the month. There was good demand for logging and sawmill workers. Yellowstone Park will need 100 workers to replace students leaving during August.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—Farm labor demand dominated the July labor market with over 900 workers placed in agricultural work. Hay and grain fields in good shape promising excellent yields. Railroad hiring down from last year. Trade and service trends keep at good seasonal directions.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—Industry job placements down both from last month and last year at this time. Factors contributing to this condition include a labor dispute and below normal trends in trade establishments. Job placement activity also showed declines in wood processing and construction. Farm conditions more optimistic.

POLSON—Active labor market conditions prevalent sparked by good job prospects in logging, sawmills, and agriculture. Main street employment in trade and service firms holding at good levels. Some shortages of sawmill workers expected through September.

SHELBY—Employment in all industries remains steady but volume of construction and oil field work not up to last year. Transient worker traffic diminishing, but offset by student work registrations. Farm labor demand good with 44 job placements.

SIDNEY—Local economy enjoying prosperous times aided by several new major construction projects and a good farm crop and livestock year. Portions of neighboring counties, however, have been declared disaster areas because of drought conditions. Farm job placements during July totaled over 1,200.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—Employment remains high in logging and lumbering, the mainstay of the area economy. Stable trends being maintained in other industry groups and should continue throughout the balance of the summer season.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—Construction got a boost with \$2 million in new work started during July. Projects include a river bridge, hospital addition, office building, church education center, school addition, and a 7 mile highway stretch. Oil field employment up with an average of 4 rigs on drilling locations.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	July 1967 (2)	June 1967 (3)	July 1966	June '67 to July '67	July '66 Against July '67
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	196,800	193,800	196,400	3,000	400
Manufacturing	25,100	24,600	24,800	500	300
Durable goods	17,000	16,600	16,600	400	400
Lumber and timber products	10,200	10,000	10,500	200	300
Primary metals	4,500	4,500	4,000	00	500
Other (4)	2,300	2,100	2,100	200	200
Nondurable goods	8,100	8,000	8,200	100	100
Food and kindred products	4,200	4,100	4,400	100	200
Printing and publishing	1,700	1,700	1,700	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,100	1,100	1,100	00	00
Other (5)	1,100	1,100	1,000	00	100
Mining	7,100	6,800	7,600	300	500
Metal mining	4,900	4,600	4,900	300	00
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	800	800	1,100	00	300
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,400	1,400	1,600	00	200
Contract Construction	12,300	11,100	14,800	1,200	2,500
Contractors, building construction	3,400	3,300	3,800	100	400
Contractors, other than building	5,200	4,400	6,400	800	1,200
Contractors, special trade	3,700	3,400	4,600	300	900
Transportation and utilities	18,100	17,900	18,500	200	400
Interstate railroads	7,600	7,500	7,900	100	300
Transportation except railroads	4,100	4,100	4,300	00	200
Utilities including communication	6,400	6,300	6,300	100	100
Trade	46,700	45,900	45,400	800	1,300
Wholesale trade	9,500	9,400	9,000	100	500
Retail trade	37,200	36,500	36,400	700	800
General merchandise and apparel	7,100	7,000	6,700	100	400
Food stores	5,200	4,900	5,300	300	100
Eating and drinking establishments	10,900	10,600	10,400	300	500
Automotive and filling stations	7,200	7,200	7,200	00	00
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,800	6,800	6,800	00	00
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,600	7,500	7,400	100	200
Services and miscellaneous	28,800	27,900	28,800	900	00
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	5,000	4,500	5,200	500	200
Personal services	2,300	2,200	2,200	100	100
Other (6)	21,500	21,200	21,400	300	100
Government	51,100	52,100	49,100	—1,000	2,000
Federal	14,000	13,900	14,300	100	300
State and local	37,100	38,200	34,800	—1,100	2,300
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	24,900	24,200	24,000	700	900
Manufacturing	3,600	3,600	3,700	00	100
Contract construction	2,700	2,500	2,400	200	300
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,200	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,300	6,200	6,000	100	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,200	00	100
Services and miscellaneous (7)	4,000	3,900	4,100	100	100
Government	4,900	4,600	4,400	300	500
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	26,900	26,700	26,300	200	600
Manufacturing	3,100	3,000	3,000	100	100
Contract Construction	2,100	1,900	1,800	200	300
Transportation and Utilities	2,800	2,800	2,600	00	200
Trade, wholesale and retail	8,200	8,100	8,000	100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,500	1,400	— 100	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	5,100	5,100	5,000	00	100
Government	4,200	4,300	4,500	— 100	300

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 802 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,210 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation,

medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JULY, 1967 AND JULY, 1966

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers In File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	July, 1967		July, 1966		July, 1967		July, 1966		July, 1967				July, 1966				Wk. 7-28	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1967	1966
Anaconda	159	17	134	25	1,043	217	211	28	121	21	142	21	169	19	188	36	924	44
Billings	572	251	597	180	1,447	474	1,287	385	351	1,430	1,781	241	450	1,069	1,519	262	430	403
Bozeman	270	16	223	47	208	59	175	27	211	106	317	74	211	99	310	52	49	27
Butte	382	76	385	123	1,140	266	747	126	126	13	139	28	240	34	274	93	570	194
Cut Bank	42	9	58	9	179	35	202	30	33	62	95	35	51	30	81	28	40	48
Dillon	112	58	103	47	72	11	72	21	38	144	182	70	33	137	170	82	27	18
Glasgow	104	22	83	18	164	12	170	13	98	21	119	26	107	25	142	22	28	32
Glendive	55	9	42	2	72	13	114	5	30	911	941	5	21	868	889	9	36	23
Great Falls	801	166	932	257	1,829	333	1,467	271	419	384	803	260	461	451	912	242	427	256
Hamilton	83	7	97	8	153	12	142	16	44	155	199	41	58	124	182	33	52	13
Havre	66	7	103	5	53	9	56	4	67	110	177	48	49	96	145	51	39	38
Helena	268	56	267	55	738	81	639	33	185	94	279	78	202	216	508	134	134	88
Kalispell	524	65	483	95	491	94	975	231	339	334	673	118	410	453	863	131	108	128
Lewistown	66	12	65	13	79	10	112	18	82	161	243	39	60	155	215	59	27	21
Libby	117	40			386	83			73		73	8					161	81
Livingston	83	9	67	19	137	12	108	20	87	74	161	37	148	85	233	55	22	17
Miles City	81	11	86	13	67	10	146	18	56	905	961	11	108	876	984	17	26	21
Missoula	714	147	645	173	1,172	309	1,181	284	244	155	399	85	404	108	512	149	193	179
Polson	108	5	127	13	178	13	249	17	120	135	255	52	69	192	261	58	41	35
Shelby	69	19	70	29	128	17	54	10	64	75	139	22	74	123	197	55	22	14
Sidney	59	7	38	3	95	7	82	2	50	1,204	1,254	16	59	1,065	1,121	6	21	22
Thom. Falls	35	7	64	17	67	13	74	19	20	19	39	4	25	25	50	10	19	14
Wolf Point	51	11	46	14	115	21	115	22	32	43	75	10	32	72	104	25	31	48
Billings YOC	386	20	329	4	773	42	675	13	96	112	208	9	155	53	208	7		
TOTALS	5,207	1,077	5,055	1,169	10,786	2,153	9,053	1,613	2,986	6,668	9,654	1,338	3,686	6,385	10,071	1,596	3,427	1,779

*Includes 166 claims of the Fed. U.C. Program 124 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July (1) 1967	June (2) 1967	July 1966	July (1) 1967	June (2) 1967	July 1966	July (1) 1967	June (2) 1967	July 1966
All Manufacturing	122.72	121.50	116.00	40.5	40.1	40.0	3.03	3.03	2.90
Durable Goods	120.47	119.58	112.92	40.7	40.4	39.9	2.96	2.96	2.83
Primary Metals	112.13	118.80	122.59	38.4	40.0	41.0	2.92	2.97	2.99
Nondurable Goods	128.48	126.47	123.51	39.9	39.4	40.1	3.22	3.21	3.08
Food and Kindred Products	118.85	118.58	112.29	41.7	41.9	41.9	2.85	2.83	2.68
All Mining	132.31	132.65	127.16	38.8	38.9	38.3	3.41	3.41	3.32
Metal Mining	131.13	131.13	128.14	37.9	37.9	37.8	3.46	3.46	3.39
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	119.59	118.90	116.11	39.6	39.5	39.9	3.02	3.01	2.91

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
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